

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough examination of the application. No new matter is believed to be added to the application by this Amendment.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-27 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. Claims 1-30 and 32 to 35 are pending in the application. Claim 31 has been canceled and its subject matter has been incorporated into claim 28. Claims 32, 33 and 35 have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies.

Objection to Claims 31-35

Claims 31-35 are objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c) as being improper multiple dependent claims. Claim 31 has been canceled. Claims 32, 33 and 35 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 28-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Applicants traverse. In the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that claim 28 is unclear. Claim 28 has been amended to set forth the present invention in phraseology that is clear, definite and has full antecedent basis. This rejection is overcome and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 28-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schneemeyer (U.S. Patent No. 5,912,797). Claims 28-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Hartig (U.S. Patent No. 5,403,458). Applicants traverse.

Claim 31 has been canceled and its subject matter has been incorporated into independent claim 28. Claim 31 was free of these rejections over Schneemeyer and Hartig. As a result, the incorporation of this patentable subject matter into claim 28 renders claim 21 instantly patentable over Schneemeyer and Hartig.

These rejections are overcome and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner is thanked for considering the Information Disclosure Statement filed March 25, 2004 and for making the initialed PTO-1449 form of record in the application in the Office Action mailed May 10, 2005.

The Drawings

The Examiner has indicated that the drawing figures are acceptable in the Office Action mailed May 5, 2005.

Foreign Priority

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge foreign priority in the next official action.

Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch, LLP

Conclusion

The Examiner's rejections have been overcome, obviated, or rendered moot. No issues remain. The Examiner is accordingly respectfully requested to place the application in condition for allowance and to issue a Notice of Allowability.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert E. Goozner, Ph.D. (Reg. No.42,593) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant(s) respectfully petition(s) for a three (3) month extension of time for filing a reply in connection with the present application, and the required fee of \$1020.00 is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: November 9, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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